

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 23RD NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

SkiGram

FRIDAY EDITION • April 3, 2009

www.wintersportsclinic.va.gov



What a Week It Has Been!

Souvenir Poster Inside

DAV National Commander, Raymond Dempsey (right), with Mark Drake (left), out on the slopes. Drake is an Army veteran here for his fifth Clinic. He is a life member of the DAV from Longmont, Colo., here with Team Colorado. On Thursday he was testing a new Scarver race mono-ski.

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what are YOU saying?

What will you remember most about this year's Clinic?



Lana Gillaspie
Knoxville, Iowa
Navy

"I skied all by myself! It was awesome. I couldn't believe I did it all by myself. I didn't know I could do it!"



Steve Cobb
Charleston, W.V.
Army

"Seeing the total white out on top of the mountain was unforgettable."



Paul Terlaje
Albuquerque, N.M.
Navy

"Skiing in the extra thick powder was something I've never experienced before. It was a lot of work – an eye opener."



Phillip Howell
Raleigh, N.C.
Army

"I've got to admit – the food is pretty good! This is my first year, and I'm definitely coming back next year for the omelettes!"

It's An Honor

What an honor it is to have the 23rd National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic held at beautiful Snowmass Village.

Beyond the beauty here is the inspiration and dedication of a band of warriors who have served so bravely to keep our country safe. Not limited in mobility, sight or even unseen challenges, your inspiration goes beyond any barriers we face in life. Your rehabilitation as participants in the Winter Sports Clinic provides all of us with the hope that we can achieve far beyond the limits of our human potential.

You served to allow all of us the freedom to enjoy our lives in this, the greatest nation in the world. As a fellow veteran, I salute you. From a grateful nation, we thank you.

John Salazar
3rd Congressional District



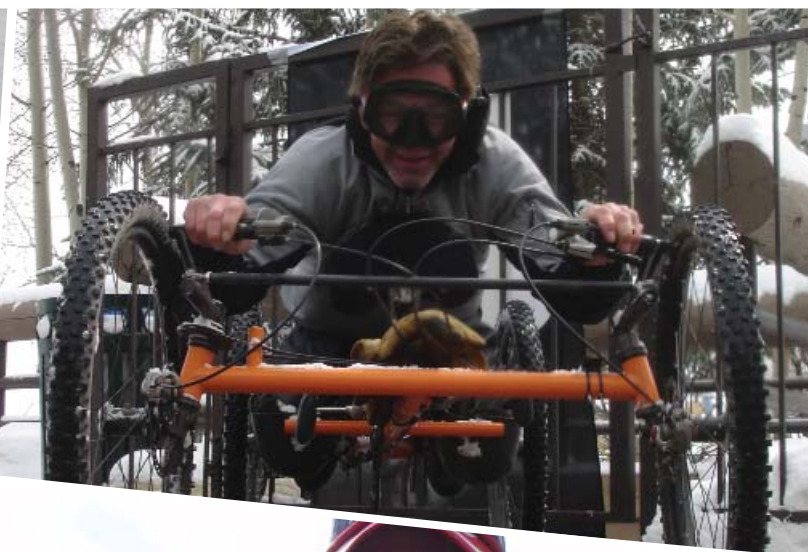
This is only the beginning...

Be sure to attend the Closing Ceremonies and Victory Celebration tonight beginning at 7 p.m. in the Conference Center Ballroom. Terry Atienza, Director of the VA Medical Center in Grand Junction, will serve as Master of Ceremonies for tonight's program. As always, arrive early to get a good seat.

Special guests include Glen Grippen, Network Director of VA's Rocky Mountain Network; and DAV National Commander Raymond Dempsey. During the program, Sandy Trombetta, Director of the Winter Sports Clinic and Ed Hartman, DAV National Director of Voluntary Services will distribute several special awards to this year's participants, instructors and volunteers.

A popular highlight of the evening is the closing video presentation showcasing all of the week's best moments. Remember that even though we are all leaving the majestic Rocky Mountains tomorrow and heading home, there is a big piece of what you have experienced this week that you can take with you – determination, accomplishment, strength and newfound friendships. Even though another week at the Winter Sports Clinic is coming to a close, this is just the beginning. We look forward to seeing you tonight!

The Show on the Snow!





THE 23RD NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

MARCH 29 - APRIL 3, 2009 • SNOWMASS, COLORADO



MY
INDOMITABLE

WILL

CONQUERS ALL

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 Department of
Veterans Affairs

DAV

Thank You to the Local Organizing Committee!

We want to express our sincere thanks to the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic's 2009 Local Organizing Committee (listed at right) for coordinating and hosting a wonderful event.

As always, we have thoroughly enjoyed our week here in Snowmass Village. From the Taste of Snowmass and Opening Ceremonies, to the special entertainment, alternate activities and the exciting events of Race Day, we have seen your hard work and dedication shine through for our veterans.

It has been an outstanding and exciting week for everyone. Thank you all for making us feel so welcome.

Dennis Abens, *Host Room Coordinator*
Allen Baugh, *Team Leader Coordinator*
Henry Bullock, *Transportation Coordinator*
Jill Cordova, *Continuing Education Coordinator*
Shane Elliott, *Communications Coordinator*
Dr. John Hunter, *Medical Director*
Mary Lane, *Food & Beverage Coordinator*
Gig Leadbetter, *Cross Country Instructor Coordinator*
Matt Lucas, *Equipment Coordinator*
Lori Mead, *Medical Room Co-Coordinator*
Richard Olague, *Public Affairs Coordinator*
Teresa Parks, *Clinic Operations Director*
Barry Sharp, *Bootloader Coordinator*
Wendy Shingleton, *Medical Room Co-Coordinator*
Sandy Trombetta, *Director, Winter Sports Clinic*
Annie Tuttle, *Alternate Activities Coordinator*
Pat White, *Ski Instructor Coordinator*

Thanks from Public Affairs

It has been our honor to share your wonderful stories with individuals across the nation throughout the week. For those of you who gave us permission to tell your stories in the Ski•Gram and to the media, we thank you!

We invite you to check out the Web site at www.wintersportsclinic.va.gov and share it with your friends and family. If you gave us permission to develop a news release and we took your photograph, you will see both under Participant Information on the Web. While we were able to photograph the majority of you who wanted hometown news releases, a few of you did escape our cameras.

Be assured that we did not release any information about your participation if you did not give us permission. If you plan to attend next year, please consider allowing us the opportunity to tell your story by checking Yes, on your Hometown News Release form.

We extend our sincerest thanks to all the staff and volunteers who helped us in tracking down participants for interviews and newsletter stories. We have included a self-addressed envelope along with your release and photo. We ask that if you received any local media coverage that you send us a copy of the news clip or a note of your appearance on television or radio.

From the entire Public Affairs Team, thank you so much for allowing us to share your experiences and tell your stories. We leave the Clinic inspired by your courage, commitment and hope to see you next year! For more information about Public Affairs, contact Richard Olague at richard.olague@va.gov.

Unfortunately, It's Time to Go

Our week has drawn to a close. Hopefully many fond and lasting memories have been made. It's now time to pack up and head home.

Travel plans are changing due to the weather situation. Check with your team leaders for the latest information.

Presented below are some information and tips that will make your trip home smoother. Safe travels!

Returning Borrowed Medical Equipment

Caregivers are responsible for returning all of the Clinic's medical equipment. On Friday, return equipment to the Silvertree's Cabaret Room from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Saturday, return equipment to the Silvertree's Eldorado Room A from 6 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Wheelchairs

All wheelchairs will require that tags be attached on the day of travel. This will be done upon arrival at the airport by a customer service representative at the ticket counter.

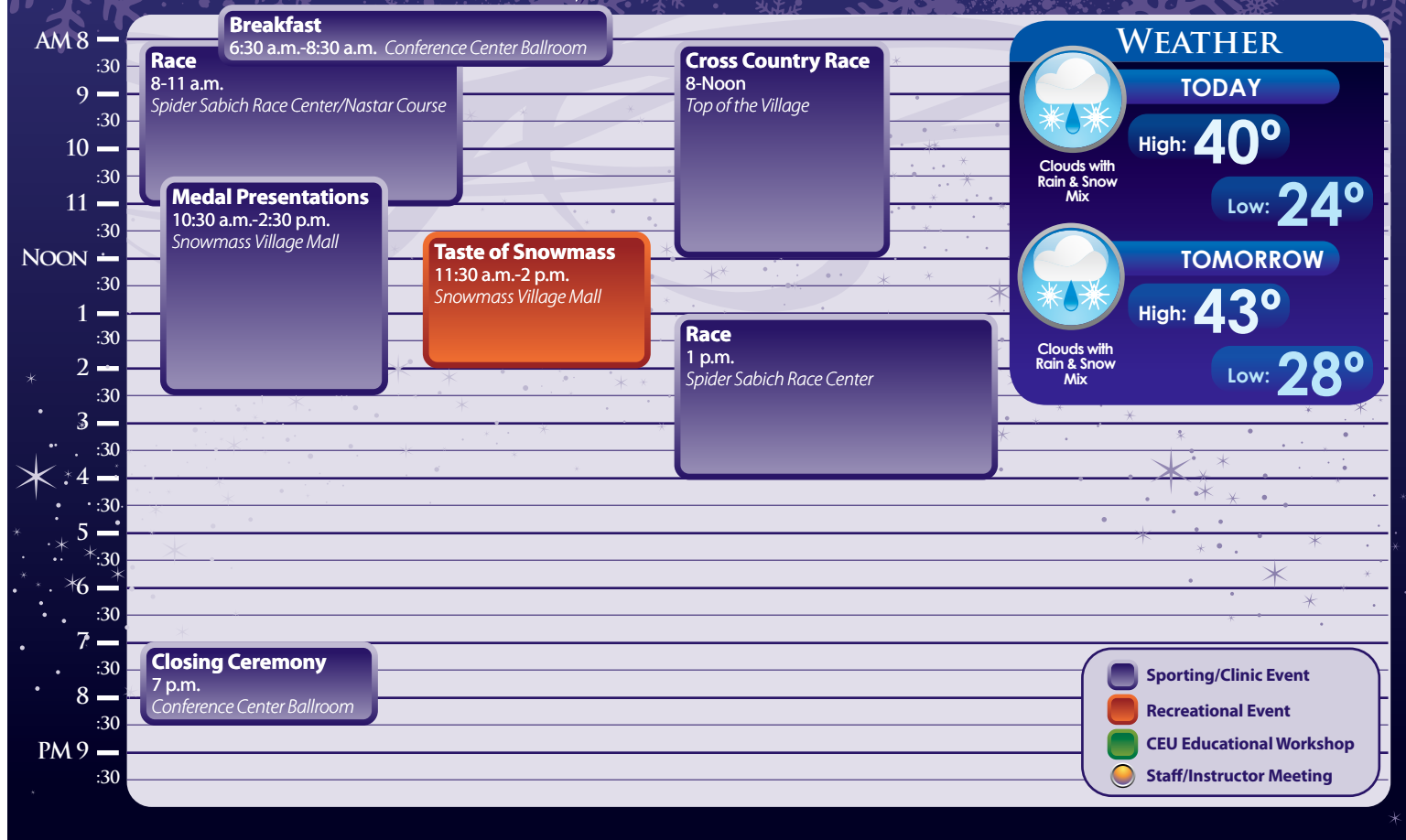
Bring Your Medicine!

All travelers should make sure they have at least a three-day supply of their required medications in their carry-on baggage. Delays can happen at this time of year.

Forgotten Items

If you should discover that an item was forgotten or left in a room at the Silvertree, call the bell desk at (970) 923-8252. The bell captain will work with housekeeping to locate the item, and if found, make arrangements to return the item. (Guests may be required to pay for shipping, however.)

SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 3



The Bulletin

Medical Room

For emergencies dial 911

Phone is (970) 923-8330.

The room is located in the Bedford A conference room, across the street from the Mountain Chalet Hotel. Stairway access from the mall is next to Christy Sports. Wheelchair access is by the elevator at the far end of the mall above the bus terminal.

Transport: Van transport is available from the Silvertree Hotel to the medical room in the front of the hotel, or by calling the medical room.

After hours: Call the medical room for recorded instructions on how to contact the "on call" medical provider. If unsuccessful, call the hotel operator.

Host Room

A reminder that the Host Room is closed today. We hope you had a great time this week, and safe travels home!

The Prosthetics Post

Sadly, we've arrived at our final edition of *The Prosthetics Post*. We've thoroughly enjoyed meeting you and answering all the questions you threw at us. We hope you had a great Clinic, and we wish you a safe trip home.

Now, let's get on to the final question:

Dear Prosthetics Post,

I lost my leg in Iraq. While at Brooke Army Medical Center I received state-of-the-art Prosthetic limbs. What can I expect now that I am transitioning my care to VA?

Sincerely,
Need a Leg

Dear Need a Leg,

Good news! You can expect to receive the same state-of-the-art technologies from VA as those you received while on active duty. VA has an established history of providing exceptional services for veterans with amputations. Regardless of when the vet was injured, service-connected or non-service connected, VA will provide quality service. VA is currently in the process of establishing an Amputation System of Care, which will ensure that all veterans with amputations receive the best possible care and technologies. Rest assured, VA will take good care of you!